

David A. Lien
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Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Incoming
c/007/013
cc Karen
Prisella

June 25, 2002

Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director of Mining
Utah Div. Of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 W. North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Dear Ma'am:


I am writing to urge you to help stop the proposed coal mining operation (i.e., the New Permit Application, Lila Canyon Extension, UtahAmerican Energy, Inc., Horse Canyon Mine C/007/013-PM02B) within the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness—the largest block of unprotected roadless land in the lower 48 states! The Lila Canyon coal mine should not be allowed to proceed.

Regarding the proposed mine:

- It would overlap both an existing Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and newly inventoried BLM wilderness units.
- The mine would also encroach on a Fremont rock shelter and other native cultural sites.
- And it would result in the dewatering of springs that are crucial to the survival of a unique band of desert bighorn sheep. Because the habitat in Lila Canyon is not found elsewhere in the area, a mine would result in the displacement and likely death of these sheep.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed the concern that impacts such as subsidence, altered hydrologic flows, and mining effluent may cause significant changes or losses in wildlife habitat, wetlands, riparian areas, stream flows, and water quality.
- The current BLM planning documents classify the area as a class III visual resource, meaning that visual changes are not permitted to dominate the landscape.

For too long our public lands have been managed for the betterment of the corporate balance sheet and not for the betterment of the American public. Today Americans are demanding that these lands be preserved in their natural state, for the betterment of wilderness, wildlife, hunting, and future generations. Please do all that you can to ensure that this happens, and **include me on your mailing list** for any future public involvement in this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,


David A. Lien
NCUA Examiner

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THE INTERIOR